

MSc Building Surveying

Programme Specification

Reference:

Version: 2.00

Status: Final

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Summary Programme Details

Final Award	
Title of (final) programme award:	MSc Building Surveying
Credit points:	180
Level of award (QAA FHEQ):	7
Interim award(s)	
Interim award 1:	Postgraduate Diploma in Building Surveying
Credit points:	120
Level of award (QAA FHEQ):	7
Interim award 2:	Postgraduate Certificate in Built Environment Studies
Credit points:	60
Level of award (QAA FHEQ):	7
Validation	
Validating institution:	The College of Estate Management (CEM)
Date of last validation:	November 2013
Date of next periodic review:	November 2018
Professional accreditation	
Accrediting body:	Accreditation from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
Date of last programme accreditation:	n/a
Date of next periodic review:	n/a
Accrediting body:	
Date of last accreditation:	
Date of next periodic review:	
Miscellaneous	
QAA benchmark statement	<i>Construction, Property and Surveying</i> QAA (2008) <i>Masters Degrees in Business and Management</i> QAA (2007)
Start Date	September 2014

Programme Overview

Rationale

The Programme is designed principally for holders of a non-cognate or semi-cognate Bachelor degree who wish to study a Master's level conversion programme in order to enter the property profession and progress to qualification as Chartered Surveyor. The Programme is also suitable for those with cognate degrees seeking a Master's level academic qualification. The programme is designed to address the essential disciplines underpinning building surveying practice.

It is anticipated that accreditation will be awarded by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) as it maps closely to the core and optional competencies specified by the RICS in the Assessment of Professional Competence (APC) Pathway for Building Surveying. It satisfies the requirements of the Education Framework for Master's degree programmes of the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB).

Entry requirements

Entrants to this Programme are normally required to have attained one of the following:

- a Bachelor Degree with honours at lower second standard (2:2), or equivalent; or
- a Bachelor Degree, or equivalent, plus 3 years' experience in a related field or
- a Level 5 qualification as defined by *Framework for Higher Education Qualifications for England, Wales and Northern Ireland* (FHEQ) plus 5 years relevant experience in a senior position; or
- a professional qualification plus 5 years relevant experience in a senior position

Students may apply to enter the Programme in either semester.

Accredited prior learning (APL) or accredited prior experiential learning (APEL) routes into the programme

CEM policy and procedures for Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning (APEL) and Accreditation of Prior Certificated Learning (APCL) are set out in CEM Code of Practice: Accreditation of Prior Learning. This policy statement takes precedence in any such decision.

Accredited prior experiential learning (APEL) may be used for admission onto a Master's programme in accordance with the entry requirements stated in the section above. However APEL and APCL do not normally enable transfer of credit into a Master's programme nor enable exemption from any component on these programmes.

Programme progression

All modules on this Programme are set at QAA FHEQ level 7 (Masters level). The module entitled, Sustainable and Innovative Construction is a prerequisite/co-requisite for the modules Building Pathology and Maintenance and Adaptation of Buildings.

Assessments are conducted in accordance with the CEM General and Academic Regulations for Students and the CEM Postgraduate Programme Assessment, Progression and Award Regulations.

Awards

- MSc Building Surveying is conferred upon successful completion of 180 credits of study
- Postgraduate Diploma in Building Surveying is conferred upon successful completion of 120 credits of study

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- Postgraduate Certificate in Built Environment Studies is conferred upon successful completion of 60 credits of study

Assessments are conducted in accordance with the CEM General and Academic Regulations for Students and the CEM Postgraduate Programme Assessment, Progression and Award Regulations.

Career prospects

This Programme equips students with the essential subject knowledge and postgraduate skills and expertise to enable them to enter and work within the building surveying areas of practice within the property industry. The opportunities available are fairly extensive and include the following career opportunities in professional practice:

- Property management
- Building Surveys
- Building Control
- Commercial property agency
- Commercial real estate valuation
- Property development
- Real estate investment

Study support

Induction module:

All students are expected to complete the non-credit bearing Induction Module before the programme commences. The Induction Module is designed to equip students with the skills they need to study at CEM. The topics covered include:

- Studying at a distance
- Understanding your learning style
- How to manage your time
- Reading actively and critically
- Introduction to the e-library
- Developing academic writing
- Writing in your own words - a guide to how to reference your work

The induction topic about referencing prepares students for the online test in referencing and citation that must be completed and passed prior to commencement of their studies.

The resources within the Induction Module are available to students throughout the duration of their study with CEM.

Student learning support:

The course is delivered via the College VLE and academic teaching and support is provided with an integral CEM online tuition model, which gives students with access to CEM tutors and other students worldwide.

The CEM Programme administrator acts as the main point of contact for students throughout the duration of their course. The academic team will guide and support students' learning. The dedicated CEM teams provide support for assignments, exams and technical issues including ICT. Each student, whatever their location, will have access to a wealth of library and online materials to support their studies.

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English language support:

English is the common language for all programmes. It is appreciated that some students will need additional support. Therefore, the VLE provides an interactive 'English for Academic Purposes' learning resource designed to help students whose first language is not English.

Programme Aims

Programme aims

The Programme is designed for holders of a non-cognate Bachelor's degree to study a Master's award that is focussed on the core disciplines associated with building surveying. It develops students' ability to integrate interdisciplinary theory and practice and to research and evaluate data in order to solve complex problems. The Programme aims to provide students with a foundation for further professional development and extension of their knowledge in preparation for further academic study at level 8.

Learning Outcomes

A: Knowledge and Understanding

Learning outcomes

By the end of the Programme students should be able to demonstrate:

- A1. Comprehension of the wider business context and the role of building surveyors within it.
- A2. A critical awareness of issues relevant to building surveying as informed by research and practice
- A3. Selection and evaluation of the theories and techniques appropriate to the design, construction and management of real estate assets.

Teaching and learning methods

Module delivery follows a standard format incorporating a range of subject appropriate resources suitable for the online distance learner. This may include, but is not limited to, audio visual presentations, interactive case studies and online journals. Modules will be supported by a core e- book.

In the Postgraduate Research Project module, self-directed learning and problem solving combined with supervisor consultation further enhances knowledge and understanding, focusing on students' own chosen research topic.

Throughout the Programme, students are encouraged to undertake independent study and enquiry to broaden their knowledge and understanding of the subject.

Assessment methods

Formative assessment opportunities and feedback are provided throughout the Programme. These vary in format and may include self-assessment quizzes and tutor guided discussion. All are designed to motivate and support the student.

Summative assessment methods and formats vary across the modules and are appropriate to the module and its stated learning outcomes.

B: Cognitive skills

Learning outcomes

By the end of the Programme students should be able to demonstrate how to:

- B1. Synthesise a range of information and solve complex problems involving creative

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application of building surveying knowledge together with further research and inquiry
B2. Evaluate the rigour and validity of published research and its relevance to building surveying issues

Teaching and learning methods

Students are encouraged to develop and apply their knowledge and understanding through a range of online activities and exercises. These require students to apply research and analysis to the design, construction and management of real estate assets.

Assessment methods

Intellectual skills are assessed through a range of coursework artefacts, examinations and a research project report.

C: Practical and professional skills

Learning outcomes

By the end of the Programme students should be able to demonstrate how to:

- C1. Acquire, analyse, and evaluate data, judge its relevance and validity to a range of building surveying contexts
- C2. Conduct research into building surveying situations using appropriate methodologies to develop and interpret knowledge in the field of building surveying

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Students are encouraged to share knowledge and ideas in relation to building surveying practice. A range of online activities require students to analyse given information and make reasoned decisions.

Assessment methods

A range of formative assessment activities are utilised to help develop the ability to analyse problems and provide reasoned advice.

Summative assessment tests that the students have formulated appropriate strategies for the design, construction and management of real estate assets.

D: Key/transferable skills

Learning outcomes

By the end of the Programme students should be able to demonstrate how to:

- D1: Research independently and demonstrate a structured approach to decision making
- D2: Communicate and collaborate effectively with relevant stakeholders within the building survey process

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The learning activities require students to undertake research, evaluate their findings and develop solutions. Teaching of module topics will require students' engagement with a range of online activities that develop research and evaluation skills and cultivate a systematic approach to problem solving.

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Assessment methods

Formative assessment through the VLE provides feedback and support for independent learning as students work through the Programme? Evaluation and problem solving skills are tested through the range of formative and summative assessments.

Programme Structure

Semester	Module	Core /Elective	Credit points
September	Law of Surveyors	Core	20
September	Costing and Contracts	Core	20
September	Building Pathology ^{##}	Core	20
September	PG Project*	Core	40
September	Property Management	Elective	20
September	Management of Construction	Elective	20
March	Sustainable and Innovative Construction [#]	Core	20
March	Planning and Development	Core	20
March	Maintenance and Adaptation of Buildings ^{##}	Core	20
March	PG Project*	Core	40
March	Property Management	Elective	20
March	Management of Construction	Elective	20

Notes:

*Available in both semesters.

The Project module must normally be studied in the final semester of the programme; however an introduction and preparatory advice is provided in the preceding semester.

This is a pre-requisite/co-requisite module for Building Pathology and Maintenance and Adaptation of Buildings marked thus^{##}

Indicates modules with a pre-requisite/co-requisite requirement see note above

Distinctive features of the programme

- The interactive Induction Module
- The flexibility to choose the start date – two intakes per academic year (September or March Semesters)
- Syllabus maps fully to RICS competencies in Building Surveying APC pathway
- Syllabus maps fully to the CIOB Education Framework for Master's Degree Programmes 2010
- The flexibility for students to choose the pace of their study
- The ability to interact with students from different Programmes and in varied geographical locations locally and internationally via the VLE
- International professional, personal and academic networking opportunities

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- Recognition and accreditation from the RICS and the CIOB
- Availability of interim awards either Postgraduate Certificate or Postgraduate Diploma

Curriculum Map

This table indicates which study units assume responsibility for delivering (X) and summatively assessing (A) particular programme learning outcomes.

Module	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	C1	C2	D1	D2
Law of Surveyors	X A	X A	X A	X A	X	X A	X A	X A	X A
Costing and Contracts	X	X	X	X A	X A	X A	X A	X A	X
Planning and Development	X A	X A	X A	X A	X	X	X A	X A	X A
Sustainable and Innovative Construction	X A	X	X	X	X A	X	X	X A	X
Building Pathology	X A								
Maintenance and Adaptation of Buildings	X A								
Property Management	X A	X A	X	X	X A	X	X A	X A	X A
Management of Construction	X	X	X A	X	X A	X	X A	X A	X
PG Project	X A								